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Letter from Anna Clemson to Floride Clemson, 1861 March 24

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My Casa Mar. 24th 1861

A.
.C626.

I am glad to hear
you are well but he did
not come up to
see you.

My darling daughter,

Kate was just finishing a letter, as I arrived in Columbia, to her mother, & I told her to mention my safe arrival. The I hope you have received, as I know you will be anxious till you hear. I left Columbia next morning, at 7 o'clock, Mr Harris & your father accompanying me to the cars, & started on my first independent journey. I met, however, Mr Anderson, an old acquaintance, who was going to Greenville, who took care of me till we separated, & on the continuation road, Mr Berryman who did the same, so I was only alone from Anderson here. I had a very pleasant trip & arrived ~~here~~ at 5 o'clock. - Took the omnibus, & drove to Mr Casa. Your grandmother came out to receive the stranger - I stared -

started & nearly screamed when
she recognized me. She was really
delighted, & she & Mrs Pike make
such a fuss over me, that I am quite
spoiled already. This morning Mrs
North & Edith Smith came to take
your grandmother to church.
Good old Mrs North was delighted to
see me, & Edith enquired most af-
fectionately after you, sent her love
& says you owe her a letter!! Went
to church this morning, & prayed for
the first time, for "The President of
the Confederate States." Saw all my
old friends, & was most cordially
received - all asked for, & sent
love to you, & regretted you did not
come. Say you must next fall.
Mrs N. & Edith dined with us, & they
& Letitia, have just gone, so I have not
had a moment all day, to write you
& as I want it to go tomorrow, I must
scribble this in haste, tho the pens you
gave me are so mean, I cannot write
fast with them. I told you to give me
the black india rubber pens. not these,
which won't write especially fast.

Letitia's baby is quite a fine child, &
runs all about, but has no name yet.
She says I must tell you she wants
to see you & give her love. Mrs

Pike says the same, & Pike looks
as lonesome as ever, but quite warm-
ed up, & seemed pleased to see me.

He reads the papers to your grandmother
every evening, when they are alone.

Would not that ~~two~~ be a group worth
seeing? I am sleeping in your room,
& am very comfortable. Kate is still
here, & "Abraham". Jackson I have
not yet seen as this is his Sunday to
go to see his wife. Andrew Thomas' ^{acquaintance} I have also made. He
is quite a good looking man.

Your uncle Andrew is at the con-
vention, & your aunt Margaret is on
the eve of her confinement - I am
like to see none of 'The Fortillions'.

John B. is in college, but I did not see
him. They say he stands well, & is
much smarter than Duff. Kate is in
Abbeville, not coming up before two
days - another release! She goes to
Florida, she says, soon after her return.

I have written your uncle James to
come up, to see me. Hope he will.

And now² for the journey on. — We
had to stay at the W. Depot I suppose
Calhoun told you an hour — there
took the omnibus to the boat where
we found your father & Logan await-
ing us. Did Calhoun tell you the
story about the Pharisees we heard
at the Depot? If he did not make
him. We laughed heartily at it.
We took leave of Calhoun & embarked.
When tea time came your father
insisted he would take home but
I persuaded him to go & sit with
me & we made a hearty supper.
Having seen him sink into the arms
of Morpheus I read a little while
& then went down into the ladies
cabin intending to take a nap if
I could find an easy chair. I
did find one but unfortunately I
found also a solitary lady & the
spirit moved her as usual to nar-
rate to me not only her life but
that of her whole family including
the illness of her children with an
episode of the burning to death of
her step mother — This intermingled
with the number of hands they
employed at harvest & the quantity
of Whiskey they drank & filled up the
time till we arrived at Aquia Creek.
She was really a nice person the

daughter of Chief Justice Daniels,
who died about a year ago, & he
knew my father, & was as all are
pleased to make my acquaintance.

Mar 24, 1861

At Aquia we took cars, which had
the meanest flats I ever saw. ^A ^{C626.} When

I tell you they had the same in -
conveniences, in form, that the Pen-
sioners have, & that I am con-
vinced the cushions were stuffed
with corn cobs, you may well be-
lieve I did not make up for lost
time in the way of sleeping. We
made the usual comfortable charges
at Richmond, & Petersburg, where
we breakfasted. It was bitter cold
- not in the cars, for your father
the whole way through nearly
roasted me alive. He would take
the flap nearest the stove, & as it be-
came red hot, so did I. Several times
I left him, & went on my own hook.
We found snow till we ~~got to~~ South
Carolina. In North Carolina it had
been 11 inches ~~deep~~!! At Charlotte

where we arrived at half past 12
at night we found there was no
connection & had to wait till 5
in the morning. The hotel was com-
fortless & cold so we did not gain
much. Next morning we entered
the Southern Confederacy & arrived
at Columbia at 12 o'clock. We found
Mr Harris Kate & Sallie waiting for
us. They were attending at seeing
me & I am sure I was at the sight of
Sallie who looked like a play actress
on a bad woman. What her mother
& Kate can be thinking of to let her
make such a show of herself I don't
know. She had on one of those little
black straw hats with no brim ap-
parent as it turns right up against
the crown. In front of this was a
map of mixed black & white feathers
towering over her forehead under
~~the~~ bonnet was sewed the small
black lace veil which hung touching
the face & the face was surround-
ed by a mass of black curls & wide

than he was. I have not told on
him yet & hope he will behave
so well that I need not do so. Did
you send Rosa's wages? They are
in the note in my table drawer you
know. Don't forget to pay Mrs. Dant
\$8 the first of the month. Did
mother's clock come? Let me know
& ask Calhoun if he left the note
at Jackson's about it. If not & it
is lost, tell them it must be careful
by Jackson if necessary, & sent by
Express as soon as possible. Ask Peter,
Daniel & Rosa, to try & get me
some turkey eggs & tell Mr. Dant to
set them under a cornucopia here.

And now good bye & God bless you. I
have had a delightful trip so far. Your
father was as kind as possible & very
attentive to my comfort. He will be
here for me I suppose in two weeks.
I feel so anxious to hear how you
all are getting on. Love to all &
believe me that no one loves
you as your mother does
Anna E. Benson

braids looking more like mohair than anything else. The head at back & braids, each wider than those in my picture, disposed round her head!!!! She is I think, however much improved, in looks & behavior, & seemed glad to see me. We did not let Mrs Harris know I had come, but told her a lady wished to see her. She recognized me however, & was very affectionate. Kate looks better than I ever saw her, & seems very happy. ~~She was~~ to start to North Carolina on Tuesday & I am to spend some days with Mrs Harris on my return, & will telegraph her from there. We went word to Caroline Walker (Mrs Harris's sister), & Mr & Mrs Brown, that we had arrived, & they came in the evening — I am the prettiest at seeing me. I indeed you may imagine this hereafter. Mr & Mrs Brown are coming up here this week to stay while I am

here? They both look well, & seem
still pleased with Columbia. My
Harris has a beautiful garden,
which being filled with evergreens
looks beautifully even now. I find
no difference in the vegetation
till I got into this State. I then
found fruit trees in bloom, & the
trees bursting out, but all the fruit
about Columbia is killed, & but
little is left here. — As to
politics I found the secession sen-
timent so strong all through Vir-
ginia & N. Carolina, that I was
astonished. They say both will
must out shortly. This State is
perfectly, wonderfully, united,
& determined to maintain her
position. All are hopeful, & there
is no distrust, there is little com-
mercial trouble, of course. I am
surprised & delighted at the state
of things. As to the negroes, perfect
security reigns, & your grandmother
told me immediately, Calhoun
was frightened away, & laughed
heartily at him about it. Your
grandmother looks wonderfully
well, & seems in good spirits.